



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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08-17

**ANCHORAGE MAN SENTENCED TO 11 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR HIS CONVICTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on February 1, 2007, Rodolfo Deleon Martinez, a.k.a. Benito Hernandez-Vega, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, but an illegal alien from Mexico, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 11 years in prison for his conviction of distributing one kilogram of cocaine.

United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline imposed the sentence on Martinez, age 31.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Stephan A. Collins, Martinez was part of a drug-distribution organization consisting of Mexican nationals, including both legal, permanent residents and illegally, present Mexican citizens, who distributed upwards of 40 kilograms of cocaine in Anchorage over at least a two-year period of time.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Beistline stated that Martinez's sentence needed to reflect the seriousness of Martinez's conduct as well as provide a deterrent to others who might consider engaging in drug-trafficking.

Mr. Cohen commended the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Martinez and his other co-conspirators. This case was investigated and prosecuted under the purview of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force, which is made up of personnel from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Department of Homeland Security, Internal Revenue Service–Criminal Investigations, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Coast Guard and the Anchorage Police Department.

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